

William Berkeley Lewis to Andrew Jackson, January 26, 1843, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>MAJOR WILLIAM B. LEWIS TO JACKSON.

Washington, January 26, 1843.

. . . . Herewith I send you a speech of Mr. Rives upon the Ashburton and Webster treaty, delivered in secret Session, and also, a pamphlet, entitled "Sketch of the life and Services of Genl. Cass," 1 both of which

1 Sketch of the Life and Services of General Lewis Cass of Ohio (Harrisburg, 1842).

class=MsoNormal>0208 184 you may feel a desire to see and read. Whatever may be your own opinion, in relation to the Treaty, I am sure you will agree with me that Mr. Rives speech is a very able one—evidencing great ability and research , and the very best defence that has, or could probably, be made of it. In looking over this sketch of the life and services of Genl. Cass one thing has struck me as very remarkable, that is, the great tact and skill , as well as ability and moderation , with which you and he managed those difficult, delicate , and exciting subjects of Nullification in So. Carolina, and the removal of the Indians from Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi. Altho the Government acted with unshaken firmness in relation to the treasonable designs of some of the Nullifiers, yet so cautious, moderate, and guarded was the correspondence of the War Dept. that there is not a word written to which the most fastidious states right man, or even nullifier himself, could take the least exception. So also, as regards the correspondence with the Governors of Georgia, in relation to the Cherokees, and of Alabama upon the subject of the intrusions upon the Creeks, between the date of their Treaty with the U. States, and the time fixed for

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their removal to the west. Nothing could have been better done; indeed I am astonished that it should have been so well done, considering the very great excitement that existed at the time in relation to those delicate and embarrassing subjects. Some time when you have leasure, General, turn to the congressional documents and read them, for I am sure it will be a gratification to you to see how well they were managed. Please present my kind regards to your little family, and believe me, my dear General, very truly Your friend,